



File Code: 2230/2210

Date: May 18, 2015

Jim and Maria Dowton
1630 Dowton Lane
May, ID 83253

Dear Jim and Maria,

This letter serves as your 2015 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Morgan Creek - Prairie Basin C&H Allotment, and should be considered an extension of Term Grazing Permit #20049. Prior approval by the District Ranger is required to amend or change these instructions.

Permitted Use

Permittee	No. and Class	Permit Type	Season of Use	Head Months
Delbert Hughes	416 cow/calf	Term	6/01-10/31	2093
Jim Dowton	194 cow/calf	Term	6/01-10/31	976
Chamberlain Ranch	299 cow/calf	Term	6/01-10/31	1504
Jim Martiny	180 cow/calf	Term	6/01-10/31	905
Ben O'Neal	104 cow/calf	Term	6/01-10/31	523
Jones Estate	32 cow/calf	Term	6/01-10/31	161
Jones Estate ^A	38 horses	Term	6/01-10/31	257

Authorized Use for 2015

Permittee	No. and Class	Permit Type	Season of Use	Head Months
Delbert Hughes	180 cow/calf	Term	6/01-10/31	905
Jim Dowton	0 cow/calf	Term	non-use	non-use
Chamberlain Ranch	299 cow/calf	Term	6/01-10/31	1504
Jim Martiny	180 cow/calf	Term	6/01-10/31	905
Ben O'Neal	104 cow/calf	Term	6/01-10/31	523
Jones Estate	0 cow/calf	Term	non-use	non-use
Jones Estate ^A	0 horses	Term	not-authorized	not-authorized

^A Jones Estate is under full suspension for their remaining numbers of 38 horses for the 2015 and 2016 grazing seasons.

Pasture Rotation

The on-dates listed above are only a guide. Actual turn out will be when range readiness occurs. Moving off the allotment must occur before forage utilization standards have been met, and no later than the scheduled off-date.



Unit	Number	On-Date	Off-Date
Unit 2 Morgan-Prairie (FS)	763 cow/calf	06/15	08/14
Unit 1(FS)	763 cow/calf	8/15	10/7
Unit 3 (FS)	Rest	Rest	Rest

Utilization Standards

Unit – Creek	Monitoring Attribute	Annual Use Indicator	Key Species	Trigger
Unit 1 – West Fork Morgan Cr & Little West Fork Morgan Cr.	Greenline stubble	>4 in	Carex	5 in
	Bank alteration	<15%	N/A	10%
	Browse Use	<30%	Willow/Alder/ Birch	25%
Unit 1 – Van Horn Cr Trail Cr Lick Cr	Greenline stubble	>5 in	Carex	6 in
	Bank alteration	<10%	N/A	10%
	Browse Use	<30%	Willow/Alder/ Birch	25%
Unit 1 – Morgan Cr	Greenline stubble	>6 in	Carex	7 in
	Bank alteration	<10%	N/A	10%
	Browse Use	<30%	Willow/Alder/ Birch	25%
Unit 2 Prairie Basin: Johnly	Greenline Stubble	4 in	Carex	5 in

Unit – Creek	Monitoring Attribute	Annual Use Indicator	Key Species	Trigger
Unit 2 Prairie Basin: Opal Cr Panther Cr South Fork Moyer Cr Upper Silver Cr Silver Creek	Bank Alteration	20%	N/A	15%
	Browse Use	30%	Willow/Alder/ Birch	25%
Unit 3 Burnt Gulch & Corral Cr	Greenline Stubble	No use by livestock is to occur		
	Bank Alteration			
	Browse Use			
Morgan Creek Uplands (<6,000)	Utilization	50%	Bluebunch wheatgrass (AGSP), Poverty oat grass (DASP)	40%
Morgan Creek Uplands (>6,000 – 7500)	Utilization	30%	AGSP and Idaho Fescue (FEID)	25%
Prairie Basin Uplands	Utilization	50%	AGSP & DASP	40%

Biological Opinion (BO) REQUIREMENTS Pertinent to the 2015 Grazing Season

1. A rest rotation grazing system will continue to be used. Both resting a unit each year and early season use provides benefits to riparian vegetation. These measures will continue to help you meet our long term riparian resource objectives for greenline successional status.

2. The on date is dependent on range readiness to help you meet our long term riparian resource objective for bank stability.
3. Annual use indicators will dictate when livestock are to be moved between units or completely off the allotment. This includes any moves in response to fish spawning as well as to help you meet our long term riparian resource objectives.
4. You are still be required to salt at least ¼ mile away from creeks to reduce potential impacts on spawning areas and designated critical habitat.
5. You are required to continually distribute livestock away from streams and associated riparian areas. This includes riding the allotment three to five times per week to reduce the potential impacts on spawning areas, designated critical habitat, and particularly before July 7, to reduce impacts to Snake River Basin steelhead spawning habitats.
6. You are required to actively herd livestock through sensitive streamside areas of upper Morgan Creek ("The Narrows"); the intended result is to not have livestock in this area unless they are being trailed by a rider.
7. You and your riders must take all practicable measures to keep cattle on established ford crossings during trailing operations between units and when coming on/off the allotment.
8. All exclosures drift fences, and water developments that reduce cattle use adjacent to streams with ESA-listed fish species are to be properly maintained and function as intended.

Permittee's Management Responsibilities

1. Three days prior to initial cattle turn-out, please inform the authorized officer in charge.
2. It is your responsibility to insure livestock are moved before utilization levels are exceeded. You must notify the Rangeland Management Specialist of this move.
3. Riding and herding are necessary to properly distribute livestock. You must provide a rider throughout the grazing season to maintain proper distribution of cattle, reduce use in riparian areas, and prevent concentrated use by livestock that could result in portions of the pasture becoming over-utilized.
4. *Use of riparian areas needs to be carefully monitored by you to know when it is time to move livestock to the next unit and to avoid exceeding standards. Do not rely on range personnel to monitor use.*
5. Salt should be placed on accessible range at least ¼ to ½ mile from permanently located watering places, riparian zones, meadows, and other areas where cattle naturally congregate. Placement should be in upland areas where additional forage utilization is desired. Salting areas should be moved annually to avoid permanent damage around

salting grounds. Do not use the same salting grounds year after year.

6. With multiple-uses on the forest, gates are often left open and cattle stray into the wrong pasture. We realize this is a problem and an inconvenience. However, it is still your responsibility to keep your animals in the proper unit. Cattle found in the wrong units or allotments should be returned immediately to the correct pasture. Routine checks need to be made by you and/or your rider. Notification to your Range Management Specialist of the issues must be made immediately
7. Any carcass or animals remains will be moved at least 100 yards from water, trails, and roads within 24 hours of notification by the Rangeland Management Specialist.
8. Under Special Order # 04-00-097 all hay, straw, or mulch brought onto the forest for the feeding of horses must be Certified Weed Free.
9. I am requesting that you be a pro-active partner in the prevention and inventory of noxious weeds on your allotment and adjacent National Forest System lands. All equipment which is used off of open roads on federal lands (for range improvement maintenance, or other management activities) should be cleaned and free of noxious weeds and their seeds prior to coming onto National Forest System lands. Please share your knowledge of known noxious weed infestations with your Range Management Specialist.
10. Any motorized travel on routes not designated in the Salmon-Challis National Forest Travel Plan must have District Ranger written authorization in advance. See enclose Vehicle Use Permit.
11. *The move-off date is the date you must have all cattle off the allotment, not the day to start moving cattle off the allotment.*

Range Improvements

No ground disturbing activities or new construction should be conducted on the Forest by you, or any of your personnel, without approval from the District Ranger. Materials for replacement and heavy maintenance may be provided by the Forest Service as funding allows. Provision of materials for normal yearly maintenance is your responsibility.

All annual maintenance on assigned improvements must be completed per your Term Grazing Permit. They should be kept to a standard of repair which is functional, safe, and acceptable to the Forest Service. Improvements are listed in your Term Grazing Permit and are shown on the allotment map. Failure to complete necessary maintenance may result in the initiation of permit suspension or cancellation procedures in whole or in part.

Other Considerations

Range inspections may occur several times during the grazing season to check maintenance of range improvements, forage utilization, and compliance with this year's grazing rotation. You are invited to participate in inspections conducted on the allotment. We will try to contact you a few days in advance to let you know when we will be looking at your allotment.

Enclosed is a Year-End Grazing Report for you to record Actual Use Data for 2015 and range improvement needs for future grazing seasons. Please record the date and number of livestock turned onto the allotment, the dates livestock are moved to and from each pasture, and the date livestock are removed off the allotment. Accurate records of these dates, maintenance work completed, and future range improvement needs must be returned to our office by December 1, 2015. Please note on the second page our request for your priority reconstruction needs. The Forest Service will use this record to help allocate range betterment funds, which are used to purchase materials for improvement reconstruction. These reports are also requested annually by United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marines Fisheries Service, so your diligence in accurately completing the forms is appreciated.

If you have any questions regarding this AOI, please contact Barry Dopp, Range Management Specialist, at (208) 879-4100. We look forward to working with you this grazing season.

Sincerely,

/S/ KATHERINE L WOOD

KATHERINE L. WOOD
District Ranger

Enclosure
Vehicle Use Permit
Non-Use Form

**Salmon-Challis National Forest
Challis-Yankee Fork & Middle Fork Ranger Districts**

Please fill out this report and return one copy to the District Ranger by: **December 1, 2015**

Allotment Name: **Morgan Creek -Prairie Basin Creek** Permittee: **Morgan Creek-Dowton**

Actual Number Grazed:

Cows _____ Calves _____ Bulls _____ Horses _____ Ewes _____ Lambs _____

Unit	Number	Date In	Date Out

Losses	Number	Value	Causes of Losses
Cow			
Calves			
Bulls			
Horses			

Calf Weights: On _____ Off _____

Maintenance of Range Improvements:

Permittee Costs for Material \$ _____

Permittee Man Hours Invested _____ @\$ _____ per hour

Herding: Days Spent by Permittee _____ @\$ _____ per day

 Days Spent by Rider _____ @\$ _____ per day

Salting: Amount Placed _____ \$ _____ per unit

Other Costs:

In an effort to better serve your needs, we are implementing this portion of the annual use report to identify any structural range improvement that is priority for reconstruction. This will help us make plans to authorize money for out-years; we are anticipating a five year schedule.

Range Improvements in Need of Attention:

Unit Name	Improvement Name	Feature Type	Location
<i>Example: Sheep Creek</i>	<i>Bernard/Flying B Boundary Fence</i>	<i>Fence</i>	<i>Between the Flying B and Bernard GS</i>

Comments:

Signature:_____ Date:_____